

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows (see the accompanying marked-up version):

Replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 6-12, with the following paragraph:

a^{1/2}
While raw water is being passed through second water softener 11, salt water from salt water chamber 14 flows to first water softener 4 to conduct regeneration of the ion exchange resin. When conducting this regeneration, valve 6 connects pipe 16 and pipe 5, and valve 2 connects pipe 3 and pipe 18. Pump 15 operates to flow salt water from inside salt water chamber 14 through first water softener 4. The ion exchange resin inside of first water softener 4 is regenerated. The waste salt water is discharged via pipe 3 and pipe 18.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-19 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version):

1. (Amended) A water softening device, comprising:

a¹
at least a first water softener and a second water softener;

at least one regeneration chamber for conducting regeneration of each of said water softeners;